

BKF Residency FRUSKA GORA

Annual report 2012

The Balkankult Foundation Intereg established the Balkankult Residency open for guests since the end of 2011.

The *Residency* is located in the Northern part of Serbia, in the National Park of Mt. Fruska Gora, 50 km from Belgrade and 20 km from Novi Sad, an important university centre and the second largest city in Serbia. The location is characterised by exceptional natural surroundings (7 km from the Danube) and several late-medieval Orthodox monasteries

What makes this residency special? It seeks to host both creative artists and professionals in the field of liberal science (philosophers, sociologists, ethnologists and others) who are "critical thinkers" – in the sense that they reflect the reality and the way we interpret it in our observations, arguments and other forms of communication.

The center offers the ultimate hospitality: artists and researchers are free to use the residency as they wish, without any obligation towards the host.

Planned activities and Development program of the Residency for 2012

The founders and Board Members of the Balkankult Foundation Intereg at the meeting held on 21 February worked out the plan for the Residency for 2012 year.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

New long- term project starting

That project that could build a new view onto locality in a global relation (under global pressure). *Discussions* between people from various disciplines (technicians, architects, artists, writers, etc.) with different perspectives.



International cooperation

Karoly Mehes, author and coordinator of the Pecs Residence Center (Hungary) has stayed at the Balkankult Foundation Residence centre. The possibilities of cooperation between the two centers were discussed. The protocol agreement has been put in place. A joint project has been planned for the next year - *Dialogue between two writers*. The main goal is: making it possible for the Serbian and Hungarian writers and artists to get to know each other better and work together in some way either in Pécs or in Fruška Gora. The two parties agree to look for financial support at the local and even at the European level to enable this cooperation.



The Residency has established cooperation with the Akademie Schloss Solitude from Stuttgart, one of the most important residency centres in Europe.

BKF Residency has become a member of the Microresidence Network group in the beginning of 2012, which consists of 22 residency centres from all over the world and is coordinated by Youkobo Art Space from Japan. This year, the Centre will establish concrete cooperation with all members of the group. / <http://www.dis-locate.net/microanalysis.pdf/>



Hosting guests

Artists, writers and cultural practitioners from Hungary, Germany, USA stayed at the Centre in 2012: Reinhard Doubrava (Germany); Karoly Mehes, (Hungary); Stefan Barth (Germany); Joerg Tokler (Germany); Denise Georg (USA) Ruth Margraff and Nikos Brisco (USA).

Karoly Mehes, author and coordinator of the Pecs Residence Center (Hungary) has stayed at the Balkankult Foundation Residence centre.

A fine art photographer **Denise George** from the USA stayed in the residency from 21 to 23 May. The purpose of these visits was to link some pilot photographs to the cultural cuisine in Vojvodina. On this occasion together with Dimitrije

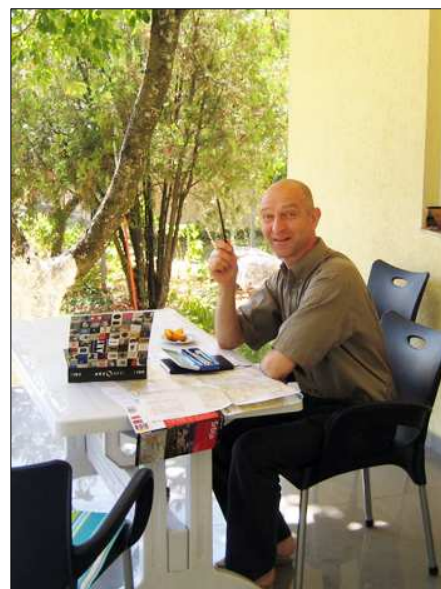


Vujadinovic, the director of Balkankult, she visited a restaurant called the *Old Building* in the city Mol, a fish restaurant *Carda* in the city of Bezdan and Jeremija - Serbian bread museum in Pecinci, where she attended a family celebration – Slava (Family Patron Saint celebration).

Mr. **Stefan Barth** and Mr. **Novak Stefanovic**, who are jointly working on the project *Dialogue on the Danube*, spent ten days on Mt. Fruska Gora. Both authors have been raised on the banks of the Danube. The Danube features as the main theme in their literature and journalist works. After the discussions, the participants would edit the texts and prepare them for publication.

Reinhard Dubrava stayed at the residency from 29 August to 4 September. The general topic of his work was: *Local identities – why do we need culture*, similarities and differences between cultures, especially under the focus on the influence of a global, commercial, value system.

Reinhard Dubrava took a lot of photographs from all the places he visited. He was attracted to different situations and objects.



Ruth Margraff, Associate Professor, Art Institute of Chicago and **Nikos Brisco**, singer/songwriter/composer, were guests in October.

During their stay, Ruth and Nikos worked on a joint performance that will show at the festival in Istanbul and Thessaloniki. They had an opportunity to meet and talk to many artists, intellectuals from Belgrade and Novi Sad. Part of their performance was presented to audience in the Foxtrot Club in Novi Sad. They praised excellent facilities for art work.

The texts, a few pages of new Ruth's drama and poetry *Hleb* by Nikos written by during their stay in the Residency will be part of the project *Balkankult talks*.



Development

Residency (Balkankult Foundation Intereg) opened a new office. Thanks to donations Balkankult bought modular facility set and placed close to the BKF Residency on Mt. Fruska Gora. This will enable a more efficient work of the Balkankult and Residency. The office has fully technical equipment for two persons.

It is planned for the BKF Residency to develop in the direction of a "creative cultural incubator". With that goal in mind, it is necessary to provide a space for round- tables, meetings,

conferences, exhibitions and video presentations. It will be necessary to build a small multi-purpose conference hall.

Conclusion

The founders and Board Members of the BKF Residency is pleased with the results achieved in 2012. The Residency will continue its activities in an enhanced cultural mobility and cultural bridging. We believe that international cooperation will be stepped-up in 2013.

Donations

We are very grateful to the European Investment Bank - Institute from Luxembourg, Phoenixpharma d.o. from Belgrade and NLB Bank from Belgrade for their decision to award us a grant!



[NLB Srbija](#)

CONTRIBUTION

Cultural Cuisine by Denise George

My name is Denise George, I'm a Fine Art, Documentary and Editorial photographer from Los Angeles California.

Last May I had the opportunity to stay at the Balkankult Artist Residency in Fruska Gora, by invitation of Dimitrije Vujadinovic, the director of Balkankult. The purpose of my visit was to do initial location scouting and 'test' photography of the cultural cuisine of Vojvodina and to explore the wine region of Fruska Gora.

The week spent with Dimitrije as my host and guide was extremely valuable, educational and enlightening. He facilitated my artistic vision and goals by introducing me to the restaurant called the 'Old Building' in the city of Mol, the fish restaurant 'Carda' in the city of Bezdán and Jeremija and the bread museum in Pecinci, as well as giving me an insightful introduction to the history and beauty of the region.

As a non Serbian speaking American, I could not have achieved all that I did without the Balkankult Foundation and Dimitrije's expert knowledge of the area, attentiveness and dedication to my personal artistic goals.

The Artist Residence apartment in which I stayed, was idyllic. The lovely natural setting, privacy and modern comfort of the accommodations are highly conducive to creative inspiration, whether an artist, photographer, writer or professional creative. Whoever has the opportunity to visit and stay in the residency - they will be enhanced creatively and their project enriched.

It is rare in this world that an artist/professional can go to a physical place where, whatever their creative needs and desires are, they are met and sponsored. I am grateful to the Balkankult Foundation for affording me the experience and to Dimitrije for his generosity of time, knowledge, hospitality and sharing of cultural contacts.

My visit exceeded my expectations and I hope to return in the spring to pursue a possible collaboration with Dimitrije in the field of travel and cultural cuisine which could be marketed in America to help introduce a greater awareness of this beautiful and historic region.

Denise George

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